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LETTER DATED 30 OCTOBER 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF BELGIUM, FRANCE AND THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

We have the honour to bring to your attention the text, in French and English, of a declaration on Yugoslavia, adopted by the European Community and its member States at their ministerial meeting held in Brussels on 28 October 1991.

We should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex distributed as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Paul NOTERDAEME
Permanent Representative of
Belgium to the United Nations

(Signed) Jean-Bernard P. H. P. MERIMEE
Permanent Representative of France to
the United Nations

(Signed) Sir David HANNAY
Permanent Representative of the
United Kingdom to the United Nations

Annex

[Original: English and French]

Declaration on the situation in Yugoslavia

The European Community and its member States assessed the results of the seventh plenary session of the Yugoslav Conference, which took place on 25 October 1991 at The Hague under the chairmanship of Lord Carrington.

They concluded that five republics reiterated their readiness to cooperate on the basis of the draft arrangements, submitted by Lord Carrington and the Presidency. They also noted that one republic continued to reserve its position.

The European Community and its member States remain convinced that only a comprehensive arrangement, based on the principles as reflected in the draft arrangements submitted to the Yugoslav Conference, will ensure a peaceful solution to the present crisis. Notably, the principles of no unilateral change of borders, protection of human rights and rights of ethnic and national groups constitute universal, objective standards, which leave no room for compromise.

The European Community and its member Staes are appalled at constant violations of these principles. In this context they refer to the Serbian position in the Conference, the coup d'état by four members of the Federal Presidency and their annourcement of a plan aimed at the establishment of a Greater Serbia. The statements and actions of the Yugoslav National Army, which were condemned in the Declaration on Dubrovnik of 27 October 1991, should also be seen in this light.

If the Yugoslavia Conference is to succeed, these principles must be unequivocally accepted by all the parties, which means that the Serbian reserve must be lifted. If at the next plenary session of the Conference, on 5 November, the Serbian reserve is lifted, the Conference, as presently consitituted, will continue on the basis of the draft arrangements.

If not, the Conference will proceed with the cooperative republics to obtain a political solution, in the perspective of recognition of the independence of those republics wishing it, at the end of a negotiating process conducted in good faith as set out at Haarzuilens on 6 October. Non-cooperative parties can then expect restrictive measures to be taken against them by the European Community and its member States.

The European Community and its member States will ask the Security Council to urgently address the question of further restrictive measures under chapter VII. Ministers will take up the question of restrictive measures at their meeting of 4 November in view of a decision in the margin of a subsequent meeting later in the week on the basis of the results of the next plenary session of the Conference, on 5 November.

In view of the significance of the meeting of 5 November the coordinator of the Conference, Ambassador Wijnaendts, will meet with relevant parties in Yugoslavia in a final attempt to bridge remaining differences. Lord Carrington will inform the Secretary-General of the United Nations today. In the meantime the working groups of the Conference will continue to elaborate and refine the arrangements for the comprehensive settlement.

The European Community and its member States call on the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe as well as on the Security Council of the United Nations to continue to express support for their endeavours to bring about a peaceful solution to the Yugoslav crisis and to denounce the role played by the Yugoslav National Army and the coup d'état by four members of the Federal Presidency.